

Bills of Interest to the HR Community (as of March 9, 2006)

SB 518 (as amended by Senate Committee)

This bill allows employers to designate the method by which employees receive wages. Amendments require the employer to hold four quarterly employee forums between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007. The meetings are to provide information to employees regarding plans to implement a payment system.

SB 533

Creates a 12-member Citizens Commission on Separation of Powers who shall receive compensation per K.S.A. 75-3223. The commission shall:

- conduct an extensive study of the separation of powers of the three branches of Kansas government
- recommend changes in state organizations and procedures after considering the Kansas constitution and statutes, current operations of departments and agencies, and other elements of state government

SB 573 and HB 2968

FY07 Appropriations bills that:

- Sets salaries of elected and legislative officials
- Provides 2.5% increase for unclassified employees
- Includes funding to move Corrections Officers I(A), I(B), and II to pay grade 20 as proposed by the Governor
- Limits salary bonus payments to \$3,500 annually for state employees paid under K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 75-37,105
- Sets agency position limitations

SB 577 (as amended by Senate Committee)

As amended, the bill provides for salary increases for state employees as follows:

- Step movement of a single pay step for classified employees on step 15 or lower of the current pay plan whose latest performance review rating in the 12-month period prior to June 18, 2006, is at least satisfactory. Step movement is effective on the first day of the biweekly payroll period which is chargeable to FY07.
- A 2.5% pay increase for employees who are paid at a rate above their pay grade.
- A 2.5% increase for unclassified employees in FY 07.

Sets the salaries of elected officials and provides for SGF expenditures for the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

HB 2696 (as amended by House Committee)

Sets requirements, salaries and terms for administrative law judges in the division of workers compensation at the Department of Labor.

- Amends language to allow the Secretary of Labor to either approve or reject nominations from the administrative law judge nominating and review committee. The original version of the bill did not allow the secretary to reject nominees from the committee.
- Amends language regarding the terms of administrative law judges appointed to unclassified positions. Provides that initial terms will be for two, three or four years as specified by the Secretary of Labor to insure staggered terms initially. Thereafter, terms will be for four years.

HB 2869

FY 2008 Appropriations bill authorizing capital improvement projects and position limitations.

HB 2897

Requires that the pay plan for the classified service include regular annual step movement for classified employees, beginning with the first payroll period in FY 2007.

HB 2923

Requires the State Corporation Commission to conduct an energy audit on buildings under the control of a state agency that were constructed before January 1, 2000. The state agency shall pay for the cost of the audit. From July 1, 2000 – July 1, 2015, each state agency shall reduce energy consumption by not less than 15%. If the Board of Regents participates, they shall reduce energy consumption by not less than 10%.

HB 2928

Prohibits employers from discharging, discriminating, or retaliating against an employee who is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault and takes time off work to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief to help ensure the health, safety or welfare of the victim or the victim's child. Sets penalties for employers and entitlements for employees.

HB 2936

On or after January 1, 2007, requires state agencies who use moneys from the state general fund or any special revenue fund for media or print advertising to include the following statement: "Paid for with your Kansas taxpayer dollars."

HB 2940

Abolishes the Kansas Turnpike Authority on January 1, 2007, and transfers duties and employees to the Department of Transportation.

HB 2957

FY07 and FY08 appropriations for positions limitations, transfers, capital improvement projects, etc.

HB 2958

FY06 and FY07 appropriations for positions limitations, transfers, capital improvement projects, etc.

HB 2990

Creates the healthy workplace act. Defines various terms related to the workplace, such as abusive conduct, abusive work environment, constructive discharge, employee, employer, malice, and negative employment decision. Makes it an unlawful employment practice to subject an employee to an abusive work environment.